

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7792

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 3540

EXDIS

E.O. GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UY

SUBJ: POST-QUITO ROUND ROBIN LETTER

REF: STATE 257820

1. I CALLED ON FONMINISTER BLANCO THIS MORNING AND HANDED HIM THE TEXT OF THE SECRETARY'S LETTER AS CONTAINED IN STATE 255993 TOGETHER WITH AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION. THE MINISTER READ THE LETTER WITH CARE AND SAID HE WOULD PREPARE A FORMAL REPLY TO IT. IN THE MEANTIME HE SUGGESTED THAT I MIGHT WISH TO REPORT HIS INFORMAL OBSERVATIONS.

2. TO BEGIN WITH, AS HE WAS READING THE LETTER, HE PAUSED AT THE SECOND SENTENCE OF PARA 2 AND SAID, WITH GREAT EMPHASIS, THAT HE WAS IN TOTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE IDEA THAT INCONCLUSIVE RESULTS AT QUITO DEMONSTRATED THE ADVANTAGES OF FULLER ADVANCE CONSULTATION. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE FEARED THAT THE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE NEW DIALOGUE HAD BEEN SOURED BY THE DISAPPOINTMENT AND FAILURE OF THOSE WHO HAD SPEAR-HEADED THE CONFERENCE AND WHO HAD FAILED PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THEIR POOR PREPARATION AND INADEQUATE ADVANCE CONULTATION. THIS HADRESULTED, HE SAID, IN WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE UNFAIR CRITICISM OF THE POSITION OF THE US DELEGATION. HE THOUGHT DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S EXPLANATION OF OUR POSITON HAD BEEN A CLEAR AND HONEST ONE AND THAT WHAT WE HAD DONE WAS WHAT THE LATIN AMERICANS HAD BEEN TRYING TO GET US TO DO ALL ALONG. IT WAS, HE SAID, A SITUATION IN WHICH THE US WOULD HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED AS MUCH FOR AN AGRESSIVE ATTITUDE AS IT WAS FOR A RELATIVELY PASSIVE ONE.

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3. LOOKING AHEAD TO BUENOS AIRES BLANCO SAID HE FELT IT WOULD BE

MORE DIFFICULT THAN EVER TO ISOLATE AND PREPARE THOSE MATTERS ON WHICH CONCRETE SOLUTIONS IN THE SHORT RUN, AS INDICATED IN THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA 3 OF THE SECRETARY'S LETTER, COULD BE MADE. SPECULATING ON THIS POINT HE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT THE MOST HOPEFUL ITEM WAS THE US TRADE BILL AND WHAT MIGHT BE BASED ON IT. BEYOND THIS HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT NOW, A STRONG EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO ISOLATE THREE OR FOUR CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR REFORM OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM SO THESE COULD BE PREPARED BY PRIOR, THOROUGH CONSULTATION AND THEN ADVANCED BY THE MINISTERS IN BUENOS AIRES AS GUIDANCE FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM REFORM COMMISSION. HE SAID THE COMMISSION IS NOW FLOUNDERING AND THAT IT WOULD NEED SOLID LEADERSHIP OF THE MINISTERS TO ACHIEVE ANY POSITIVE RESULTS. HE SAID HE WOULD GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO THIS SUBJECT AND THAT URUGUAY MIGHT HAVE SEVERAL REFORM SUGGESTIONS TO PROPOSE FOR ADVANCE CONSULTATION. IN THIS REGARD, AND REFERRING TO THE GENERAL, POST-QUITO DISARRAY, HE SAID URUGUAY WAS OPPOSED TO THE MEXICO/VENEZUELA PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A HEMISPHERIC ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION EXCLUDING THE US. THIS IDEA HAD BEEN LAUNCHED BEFORE, HE SAID, AND HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY DEFEATED--EVEN WITH SALVADOR ALLENDE OPPOSING IT, IT SHOULD NOT BE REVIVED IN HIS OPINION.

4. BLANCO THEN MENTIONED THE TRANSFER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WHICH HE HAD DISCUSSED HERE WITH AMBASSADOR BOWDLER LAST MONTH. BEING AWARE THAT URUGUAY IS TO HOST THE NEXT PREPARATORY MEETING AND THAT LITTLE IF ANY PROGRESS WAS MADE AT SANTIAGO, HE IS CONCERNED THAT EVERYTHING BE DONE TO MAKE SOME HEADWAY AT MONTEVIDEO. HE SAID HE WOULD WANT SPECIFIC CONSULTATION WITH THE US ON THIS SUBJECT IN ADVANCE OF THE JANUARY PREPARATORY MEETING.

5. REFLECTING ON THE QUITO MEETING, BLANCO SAID THAT HIS ROLE THERE HAD BEEN A FAITHFUL REFLECTION OF THE CONCERNS OF PUBLIC OPINION IN URUGUAY. HE SAID HE THOUGHT HIS PRESENTATION MAY EVEN HAVE BEEN A DETERMINING FACTOR IN THE OUTCOME, BUT THAT HE HAD ATTEMPTED SIMPLY TO STATE THE FACTS AS URUGUAY SAW THEM IN JURIDICAL LANGUAGE AND WITHOUT INFLAMMATORY RHETORIC OF ANY KIND. THE RESULTS, HOWEVER, HE CONFESSED TO ME, WERE NOT WHAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO SEE. FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, AS THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, BLANCO HAS INSISTED THAT THE MATTER OF CUBA SHOULD BE DISPOSED

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OF SO AS NOT TO POISON THE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE NEW DIALOGUE AND THE ALL IMPORTANT NEXT STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN BUENOS AIRES. HE ALSO EXPECTED AT FIRST, THAT SANCTIONS WOULD BE LIFTED AT QUITO. UNFORTUNATELY, AS HE SEES IT, THE RESULTS WHICH HE LATER FEARED (I.E., FAILURE OF THE CONFERENCE) NOW CONFRONT THE MINISTERS. IN HIS VIEW, INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS AND THOROUGH PREPARATION IN ADVANCE ARE REQUIRED TO OVERCOME THE SETBACK IN AMBIENTE WHICH QUITO CAUSED AND GIVE HOPE OF RECOVERING MOMENTUM AND SOME REAL RESULTS AT BUENOS AIRES.

6. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THAT FONMINISTER BLANCO CAN BE AN EFFECTIVE COLLABORATOR IN PREPARING FOR THE BUENOS AIRES CONFERENCE AND IN DEVELOPING THE NEW DIALOGUE ALONG POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE LINESM WHILE URUGUAY HAS A CERTAIN POSITION TO UPHOLD, IT WILL BE REALISTIC AND IS POSITIVELY MOTIVATED WITH THE HOPE OF ACHIEVING REAL PROGRESS AT BUENOS AIRES. BLANCO IS AN INTELLIGENT, PERSONABLE AND REASONABLE MAN AND I AM CERTAIN HE CAN BE HELPFUL TO US IN MOST AREAS. I SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT REPEAT THIS

MESSAGE TO EMBASSY LIMA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS' INFORMATION, HE MAY HAVE OPPORTUNITY IN HIS CONTACTS WITH BLANCO THERE TO DRAW HIM OUT MORE ON THE IDEAS WHICH HE MAY BE DEVELOPING WITH RESPECT TO ADVANCE CONSULTATION ON REFORM OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM.  
SIRACUSA

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